

# Integrating science & policy to promote agroforestry in practice – A nature conservation perspective



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# Status quo from nature perspective

**Current farmland situation shows negative trends:**

- **loss of biodiversity, e.g. 26 out of 30 farmland birds with negative trend, similar with other plants and animals**
- **monotonisation of land use practices (e.g. large-scale maize monocultures, loss of fallow and scattered structures, decrease of crop rotation).**
- **nitrogen and pesticide applications remain high**
- **counterproductive developments in climate change mitigation (grassland conversion)**
- **growing demand for food and biomass causes price increase leading to intensification and profitability loss for low-intensity farming**



# Common Agriculture Policy 2014-2020

- Long and heated debate on future direct payment allocation and Greening of agriculture policy (crop diversification, grassland protection, Ecological Focus Areas)
- The idea was integration - the outcome is weak: Cross compliance less important, not updated on latest policies (water, pesticides), greening with too many exemptions, EFAs too little quantity, no guaranteed quality
- Rural Development budget shrinking while prices are increasing





# CAP – new opportunities

- Better eligibility - more flexibility without losing direct payments:  
„Scattered features which cover up to a certain percentage of the reference parcel can be considered as being part of the eligible area” - maximum density up to 100 trees/ha
- Ecological Focus Areas: 5% of arable areas to be designated as EFAs (for farms beyond 15 ha and with less than 75% grassland), including buffer strips, short rotation coppice, agro-forestry areas and strips of eligible hectares along forest edges. Possibility to increase percentage to 7% in 2017
- Member States to define list of EFAs and tree species qualifying for SRC by August 2014



# CAP – new opportunities

- EFA options and weighting factors lead to focus on catch crops and nitrogen fixing crops
- Pillar II implies higher co-financing rates for agri-environment and new funding options (Art. 21/ Art. 23 „establishment of agroforestry systems“ (up to 80% of eligible investment), Art. 35 for co-operation between different actors)

Features	Conversion factor (m/tree to m <sup>2</sup> )	Weighting factor	Ecological focus area (if both factors are applied)
<i>Land lying fallow (per 1m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Terraces (per 1m)</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Landscape features:</i>			
<i>Hedges/wooded strips (per 1m)</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>10 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Isolated tree (per tree)</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>30 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Trees in line (per 1m)</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>10 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Group of trees/Field copses (per 1m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>1.5 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Field margin (per 1m)</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>9 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Ponds (per 1m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>1.5 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Ditches (per 1m)</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Traditional stone walls (per 1m)</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Other features not listed above but protected under GAEC7, SMR 2 or SMR 3 (per 1m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Buffer strips (per 1m)</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>9 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Hectares of agro-forestry (per 1m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Strips of eligible hectares along forest edges (per 1m)</i>			
<i>Without production</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>9 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>With production</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>1.8 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Areas with short rotation coppice (per 1m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0.3 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Afforested areas as referred to in Article 32(2)(b)(ii) (per m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Areas with catch crops or green cover (per 1m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0.3 m<sup>2</sup></i>
<i>Areas with nitrogen fixing crops (per 1m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0.3 m<sup>2</sup></i>

# Conclusions

legitimacy of **direct payments** keeps being under high pressure  
further **segregation of land use** and intensification on productive land very likely

decreasing willingness of farmers for extensive farming systems =>  
agro-forestry restricted to **marginal areas**?

legal baseline and **environmental legislation** increasingly important  
(e.g. Natura 2000, Nitrates Directive, Water Framework Directive)

Pillar II has to focus on „**dark green**“ **measures** with high  
environmental benefits

⇒ Agro-forestry can show an added value as integrated farming  
system with many benefits between voluntary measures and  
legal requirements





A photograph of a row of trees in full bloom with white flowers, set against a clear blue sky. The trees are situated in a green field with some yellow wildflowers. The text 'Thank you for your attention!' is overlaid in red on the left side of the image.

Thank you for  
your attention!

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